Celeb Pg 22

Pam riffs on Palin

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VANCOUVER • MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2008 metronews.ca

Election 2008

Grits promise $250M to fight beetle

PLAN If elected, the Liberals would spend $250 million to combat the spread of mountain pine beetle, Vancouver South MP Ujjal Dosanjh announced yesterday.

Under the plan, the Liberals would pay to help remove beetle-killed trees from private property and create fire buffer zones around 100 First Nations communities. They also promised to restore the Pine Beetle Fund in Kamloops, Kelowna and Prince George, monies that were raided to pay for airport improvements.

The Liberals would also hold a National Forestry Summit to develop a national forests strategy.

METRO VANCOUVER

COPE, Vision to share slate

MUNICIPAL ELECTION Members of the Coalition of Progressive Electors voted yesterday in favour of running a shared slate of candidates with Vision Vancouver in the Nov. 15 civic election.

Under the agreement, Vision will run eight city council candidates and one mayoral candidate. COPE will run two city council candidates and will throw its support behind Vision mayoral candidate Gregor Robertson. For school board, COPE will run five candidates and Vision will run four. For park board, COPE will run two candidates, Vision will run four and the Greens will run one.

METRO VANCOUVER

Election 2008 pgs 8,9

- **Mike Tennant reveals code of campaign ads**
- **Tories attracting urbanites, says poll**
- **Dion happy with start**
- **Layton ready for more Harper bashing**

Please recycle

Freestylin' **Street style**

REBECCA ARNOLD/METRO VANCOUVER

Kantcho Doskov serves up some fresh moves at the Chan Centre at UBC in Vancouver yesterday. Doskov was one of 10 competitors in the regional qualifier for the Red Bull Street Style Worldwide Freestyle Soccer Contest. Story, page 4.

Dream Catchers triumph

ANDREA WOO
for Metro Vancouver

Vancouver's homeless soccer team, the Dream Catchers, triumphed at the Street Soccer Canada Nationals held in Calgary yesterday, tying Toronto 3-3 before winning 2-1 in penalty shots.

This is the first year Vancouver's had a team.

"It was action-packed end-to-end, right to the last minute," said Paul Gregory, director of Street Soccer Canada.

Dream Catchers founder Rhonda Alvarez said the team will be returning to Vancouver and celebrating at Oppenheimer Park tomorrow.

"It's just an honour to have been part of a tournament like this," she said. "These guys have worked hard and been committed and dedicated and all of their hard work has paid off."

She added that the goal of the team — which consists of 15 people, 10 of whom competed in Calgary — is to promote social inclusion of all nations and create change through sport and wellness.

In coming weeks, directors and managers of the national team will be selecting players from across the country to represent Canada at the Homeless World Cup in Melbourne, Aus., in December.

Gregory said players will be picked based on skills, dedication and how the project has changed their lives.

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Mercury soars in September
Vancouver is experiencing record-setting temperatures as summer weather continues. Environment Canada is calling for highs near 29 C, which is 10 C over the average for September. METRO VANCOUVER

Local

Layton's got the beef

NDP Leader Jack Layton has taken an early lead in a New Westminster burger poll. The Layton burger, with sharp Jack cheese, has 42 per cent of the vote at the Burger Heaven restaurant. The Harper burger polled second at 35 per cent, followed by the Dion burger at 11 per cent. METRO VANCOUVER

Mechanical issues cancel weekend ferries

TRANSPORTATION B.C. Ferries was getting no 'props' from passengers yesterday as two sailings between Swartz Bay and Tsawwassen were cancelled yesterday due to propeller problems.

The ferry corporation cancelled the 11 a.m. sailing of the Spirit of British Columbia from Tsawwassen and the 1 p.m. sailing from Swartz Bay. The vessel was back in service by mid-afternoon.

In August, the Spirit of B.C. was pulled from service for three days because of a broken propeller.

METRO VANCOUVER

metronews.ca
What's online today.

Watch hundreds of mourners gather at the Winnipeg funeral of Cpl. Mike Seggie, who was killed in Afghanistan last week at www.metronews.ca/canada
Check movie showtimes, trailers and reviews at metronews.ca/movies
Play online Crosswords!

Lotteries

Friday, Sept. 12
Lotto Super 7 9, 13, 21, 22, 28, 44 & 45 Bonus 10
Extra 17, 20, 32, 82

Saturday, Sept. 13
Lotto 6/49 5, 18, 20, 26, 37 & 39 Bonus 14
BC 49 7, 23, 37, 42, 43 & 44 Bonus 19
Extra 8, 44, 62, 97

These results are not official.

Sun greets Fox walkers for first time in 15 years

KRISTEN THOMPSON
kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

For the first time in 15 years, participants of Vancouver's annual Terry Fox Run took to the pavement to raise money for cancer research under sunshine and blue skies.

About 800 people ran, walked or biked the three- or 10-kilometre routes through Stanley Park, picking up where Terry Fox left off 28 years ago.

Marny Eng and her sister, Jennifer Kingi, who ran in memory of their mother who died of cancer at 44, said the customary rain actually creates a sense of bonding with the participants.

"There's a communal feeling," Eng said, adding that it was also nice to run in the sunshine for once.

Walter Muzychka said he's been in every run since 1980, and has been joined by his friend Mimi Boynton every year since 1984.

RAFE ARNOTT/METRO VANCOUVER

A runner crosses the finish line after completing the Terry Fox Run at Second Beach in Stanley Park yesterday morning.

"I was driving across Canada … the day that Terry Fox quit running (and) I expected to run into him in Thunder Bay," said Muzychka.

"That was heartbreaking, so after that I never missed one (walk)."

Boynton participated in the Terry Fox Run in New Zealand in 1983.

"It was so wonderful seeing so many Canadians in New Zealand doing the walk for Terry," she said.

Terry Fox Run

- The Terry Fox Run For The Cure has raised $450 million for cancer research since its inception in 1980.

News in brief

ANIMALS A female black bear was shot and killed in Surrey yesterday, CKNW reported. The bear, which was spotted in Fraser Heights, near 110th Avenue and 160th Street, had been captured and relocated before and was not afraid of people.

ELECTION New Democrats in Vancouver-Quadra nominated civil liberty advocate Kirk Tousaw to take on incumbent Liberal MP Joyce Murry in October's federal election. Tousaw is a volunteer board member with the B.C. Civil Liberties Association.

PHONE The Canadian Federation of Independent Business called on Telus to stop the telecommunications company's shutdown of analog cell service in B.C. The CFIB warned thousands of people without landlines or digital cell coverage could lose 9-1-1 access.

CASH About 140 British Columbians have donated their climate-action dividend cheques to the NDP. In June, the party asked for the donations to fight the carbon tax. Party president Jeff Fox said the $14,000 will go toward party initiatives. METRO VANCOUVER

NPA slate 'not beholden' to party politics

ANDREA WOO
for Metro Vancouver

The Non-Partisan Association has built what mayoral nominee Peter Ladner calls the most diverse team the party has ever assembled.

During a nomination meeting held Saturday, the NPA elected candidates for city council, school board and park board.

Sean Bickerton, Leanore Copeland, David Lee, Daljit Sidhu and Kanman Wong will run for council. They will join five others nominated in June: Suzanne Anton, Elizabeth Ball, Kim Capri, Michael Geller and Korina Houghton.

For school board, Heather Holden, Joanne Pulis and Lakhbir Singh were nominated to join Ken Denike, Carol Gibson, Clarence Hansen and Sophia Woo.

For park board, Melissa DeGenova, Naresh Shukla and Marty Zlotnik will join Ian Robertson, Laura McDiarmid, Christopher Richardson and Sharon Urton.

Ladner said the team now encompasses every neighbourhood of the city.

"Our slate will be truly non-partisan," he said, "not beholden to any provincial or federal political party."

Meeting

- Vision Vancouver's meeting will take place Sept. 20. The party has more than 30 candidates seeking nominations.

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Car break-ins up by a third this month

Vancouver Police statistics show a 33 per cent increase in thefts from vehicles in the downtown core from just a month ago. Authorities attribute the spike to a number of factors, but overall automobile break-ins for the year are down 12 per cent compared to 2007. METRO VANCOUVER

Barfoot, Toews bring lit to Granville

LITERATURE Two internationally acclaimed and award-winning Canadian authors, Joan Barfoot and Miriam Toews, are in town today as part of the 2008 Vancouver International Writers Festival.

Barfoot and Toews will each be reading from their latest novels on Granville Island.

Exit Lines, Barfoot's 11th novel, addresses the rights and freedoms of seniors in a retirement home and is, in Barfoot's own words, "a little thumbs up to the radical old."

The movie adaptation of Barfoot's 1986 novel, Dancing In The Dark, won three Genie Awards.

The Flying Troutmans follows the story of a dysfunctional family on an impromptu road trip.

Toews is the author of A Complicated Kindness, which won the 2004 Governor General's Award.

The event starts at 7:30 p.m. at Granville Island Stage. For more information, visit writersfest.bc.ca.

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KRISTEN THOMPSON / METRO VANCOUVER

Don Davies, left, greets supporters at his campaign office in East Vancouver yesterday.

Davies launches run

KRISTEN THOMPSON
kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

Don Davies says he's most qualified to represent Vancouver-Kingsway as its MP because he's the only candidate for that riding who lives in the community.

The NDP nominee for the federal riding officially launched his campaign yesterday.

"I live here. My opponents don't," Davies said at his campaign headquarters. "This is my community, so it's really rewarding to meet the diverse aspects that make up (the neighbourhood)."

Davies said he wants to be a voice for his community because many people "don't get consulted and heard."

He added that affordability of housing is a major worry for his constituency.

"People are telling me they're worried about being able to send their kids to university," said Davies. "It's really tough for people in this riding to get by. The price of housing going up and the wages aren't."

He added that he'll also lobby for better transit safety, a low cost drug plan, and a strategy to provide $40,000 a year in the job sector.

Athletes kick it up in competition

ANDREA WOO
andrea.woo@metronews.ca

SPORT Ten athletes fused soccer and freestyle dancing yesterday, wowing the crowd with knee grabs, shin spins and stalls at the first Red Bull Street Style competition in Vancouver.

The event, held at the University of British Columbia, was the regional qualifier for the Oct. 12 national finals in Toronto.

From there, one person will be chosen to represent Canada at the world final in Sao Paulo, Brazil, in November.

"This really lets soccer guys showcase their skills in an arena format," said organizer Cody Swansborough.

"I'm really good. I know I'm not going to lose."
Pablo Villalta

Competitors had three minutes to go head-to-head against one opponent, alternating ball possession every 30 seconds. They were then judged on control, creativity and style.

Pablo Villalta, who easily beat his opponent in a preliminary round, exuded confidence as the crowd cheered for him.

"I'm really good," he said. "I know I'm not going to lose."

News in brief

ACCIDENT A trust fund has been established to help the families of three workers who were killed and two who were injured after breathing noxious fumes in a Langley mushroom farm accident, CBC News Online reports. WorkSafeBC is providing $7,900 for each of the deceased men's funerals, but their families say it's not enough. There are a total of 12 children among the families of the five men, and the families are facing tough financial times, community activist Arthur Le said.

ASSAULT A 28-year-old man has been arrested after trying to assault a jail guard and an off-duty police officer, both of whom were walking down the street in the Downtown Eastside on Saturday evening. The officer warded the man off with his helmet and arrested the man.

HEIGHTS Police were called to a Vancouver highrise early yesterday morning to find a woman hanging from a 19th storey balcony. A neighbour climbed from his balcony to hers in an attempt to help her, but by the time he got there she had been pulled inside by another man in the suite. The woman was taken to hospital to be treated for injuries and police said the incident is being investigated.

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No purchase necessary. Contest runs from September 1st to September 28th, 2008. For complete contest rules visit koodomobile.com/kickit. © 2008 Koodo Mobile.

Airport expansion delayed

The Kwanlin Dun First Nation in Whitehorse has won an injunction that halts the opening of tenders for construction work at the city's airport. The ruling has now delayed the $15-million airport expansion indefinitely, while lawyers for the Kwanlin Dun make their case before a trial judge. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

Canada

Charest wants funding freedom

Premier Jean Charest is demanding the federal parties promise to negotiate an agreement that gives Quebec freedom to manage federally-funded cultural investments in the province. Charest, speaking to a construction group in Quebec, said he also wants to reinstate cultural funding that was cut by Stephen Harper and return funding to non-profit organizations that are active in economic development.
METRO NEWS SERVICES

Clampdown brings out party animals: Cops

The trouble with police clampdowns on rowdy student parties is that the more charges you lay, the more headlines attract the party animals, as they're discovering this month around London, Ont.'s Fanshawe College.

"Once you get that reputation for parties — they're now calling it Fun-shawe — the message seems to be 'Come and party,'" said London Police Chief Murray Faulkner.

His officers laid a staggering 685 charges in the first two weeks of school for noise and liquor infractions, for bonfires and fighting — and even kicking a cat so hard it had to be put down. In this zero-tolerance blitz, nearly 200 of those charged were not students. Campuses around the world are scrambling for new ways to fight age-old Town-and-Gown tensions that can erupt in mid-sized university towns where students are clustered together.

"We hear from officials with the same problems in Italy, New Zealand, Germany, the United States, the U.K. — wherever large groups of people at the same stage in life are spreading their wings and experimenting," said association past president Kaye Crawford, manager of community relations for the city of Waterloo, which has the highest student-to-citizen ratio in Canada.

Flyers reminding students of local bylaws and increased policing are two deterrents used by the schools. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Money and polls

- McMaster University spends about $40,000 per year to hire off-duty police officers to patrol student neighbourhoods
- Pollsters refuse to conduct student drinking polls during the Fall because the numbers are inflated, they say.

Search for sick kid ends in tense police standoff

MALNOURISHED A 9-month-old baby is being treated for malnutrition at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto today, nearly a week after police began searching for the child and his parents, members of an obscure Moorish-American religious sect that doesn't believe in traditional medicine.

But it took the Emergency Task Force to get him there.

The parents, who fled with the child after refusing treatment at the hospital last Wednesday, returned to Sick Kids with the boy yesterday after nearly five days in hiding.

The child's young mom and dad said they returned out of concern for the boy's health, and because of an intense police search for them.

But when hospital officials and the Children's Aid Society insisted on treatment, the mother backed off and wanted to leave with the child.

That led to a two-hour standoff at the hospital, with the mother refusing to hand over the child and authorities refusing to let the family leave.

The Emergency Task Force, which has negotiators trained for such situations, was also called in before the impasse ended with the arrest of the mother, father and a friend, Tameka Lawrence, all on obstruction of justice charges.

Last Friday, police issued a rare public alert for the mother and child, but not even her spiritual adviser could say where she was hiding out with the severely malnourished baby.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

11 The child, who weighs only 11 pounds — far short of the normal 20-odd pounds for a healthy baby of that age — is now in the custody of the Children's Aid Society.

Nova Scotia **Snow surprise**

DARRELL OAKE/METRO CANADA

Four-year-old Alexander Meade looks surprised as he plays with a snowball he made from the snow a Zamboni dropped off behind the rink at Cole Harbour Place this weekend in Dartmouth, N.S. NHL star Sidney Crosby trains at the arena in the off season.

Withdrawal date sound, says MacKay

AFGHANISTAN Setting a date to end Canada's combat role in Afghanistan by 2011 is consistent with the will of Parliament, Defence Minister Peter MacKay said yesterday. He added it was not a signal that the country is going to "cut and run" from the mission.

Peter MacKay

MacKay said the Afghan pullout, announced by Conservative Leader Stephen Harper, was in line with a resolution passed last May, extending the mission past its original end date of 2009, CBC News reported.

Retired Canadian major-general Lewis Mackenzie suggested last week that publicly setting a date for pulling troops out of a war zone could embolden the Taliban. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

News in brief

QUEBEC Bloc Québécois Leader Gilles Duceppe pulled the Quebec constitutional debate into the federal election campaign mix, calling on Conservative Leader Stephen Harper to enshrine Quebec's status as a nation in the Canadian Constitution, CBC news reported. In 2006, Harper succeeded in passing a motion "recognizing that the Québécois form a nation within a united Canada." Duceppe's demand comes as the Bloc leader has faced stinging criticism during the election campaign from separatists saying his party has sidelined its work to Quebec sovereignty.
METRO NEWS SERVICES

Protests held for resisters

VOTES Protesters gathered outside Edmonton City Hall this weekend, urging people to vote for parties supporting asylum for American soldiers who come to Canada to avoid fighting in the Iraq war, CBC News reported.

About 20 rallies from British Columbia to Newfoundland were held to support American soldiers seeking refugee status as conscientious objectors against the war in Iraq.

Protesters said the Conservatives are the only party that supports sending war resisters back to the U.S., while the opposition parties all supported a non-binding motion passed in the House of Commons in June to allow American war resisters to stay.

There are an estimated 200 U.S. war resisters in Canada. Pte. Robin Long, was the first to be deported.
METRO NEWS SERVICES

Organizers

- The Edmonton rally was organized by the Council of Canadians and the Edmonton Coalition Against War and Racism.

Firefighters **Day of mourning**

CHRISTOPHER PIKE/REUTERS

Lynn Lessard (second right), wife of Harold Lessard, a Winnipeg firefighter, mourns at the National Memorial Day for fallen firefighters on Parliament Hill in Ottawa yesterday. Lessard was killed while fighting a house fire in Winnipeg, Man.

Court date set in Mayerthorpe case

SUSPECTS Two men charged in the 2005 shooting deaths of four RCMP officers in Mayerthorpe, Alta., will go to trial on April 6, 2009.

Shawn Hennessey and Dennis Cheeseman are both charged with first-degree murder. Neither man entered a plea when the pair appeared in an Edmonton courtroom. The pair are accused of helping James Roszko, the Alberta man who killed himself after gunning down four Mounties at a northern Alberta farm in 2005. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Opposition bucking conservative trend: Stephen Harper
The prime minister said Saturday that his opponents were failing to recognize that Canadians have become more conservative. REUTERS

Halifax gas prices jump 12 cents a litre

PHILIP CROUCHER
for Metro Canada

Halifax drivers are still fuming the day after gas prices skyrocketed 12 cents a litre at stations throughout the city.

"I think it's pathetic," said Eastern Passage's Cynthia Connors, as she filled up her Nissan Frontier truck at the Esso station on Robie Street early yesterday afternoon. "It is price gouging."

Exactly at 12:01 a.m. on Saturday, the Nova Scotia government invoked its "interrupter clause" in response to Hurricane Ike and its affect on gasoline supplies in North America. The province, which uses a regulated system in setting prices, matched similar increases across the country from a day earlier and the raised price by over 12 cents.

In Halifax, the price for regular self serve has jumped from just under $1.31 per litre to just more than $1.43.

High gas prices have left people fuming.

Normally, gas prices are set each Friday, but the "interrupter clause" can be used in case of extreme market conditions.

In the wake of Hurricane Ike, which made landfall in Texas on Saturday, several major oil refineries in the Gulf Coast of the United States shut down operations, causing gas prices to shoot up.

"I absolutely think they're trying to make a quick buck," Digby native Barry Kendall said of the oil companies as he put gas into his Chevrolet HHR. "There's no way something that is just happening should affect our prices so quickly."

Connors spent $80 to fill-up her truck, which was about a quarter-full. She was heading to Port Hawkesbury, where she attends school during the week.

"I won't be coming home every weekend now," she proclaimed. "Every three weekends, maybe."

Initial reports say the refineries in the path of Ike received limited damage, but it's unclear when they will be back in working order. It's also unclear when, and if, prices will come down as a result.

"I expect it will be nice and slow," Kendall said.

Newfoundland **Protester arrested at Tory rally**

CHRIS WATTIE/REUTERS

RCMP officers arrest and escort an unidentified man from a campaign rally for Prime Minister Stephen Harper in Harbour Grace, Nfld., on Saturday.

Spelling bee winner makes mom proud

KRISTA SYLVESTER
for Metro Canada

Her daughter was already a winner in her eyes, but a Calgary mother is beaming with national pride after her spelling bee whiz kid won the regionals this weekend.

Before 10-year-old Preetha Gopalakrishnan joined 15 other regional qualifiers in Vancouver to face-off for Canada's Super Speller, her mother Narayani knew she had it in her to win.

"There was no pressure on her to win. I was just so excited for her to be there. She has always been internalizing the words and is a natural," her mother said.

Narayani said she can't describe the excitement she felt when it came down to a tight race with only one point separating her daughter and her nearest competitor. Preetha eventually came out on top.

"Oh, I was totally ecstatic, totally ecstatic. I'm filled with so much joy, pride and it feels awfully good."

And Preetha was delighted, too.

"I wasn't nervous, just really excited. I thought, 'Wow, this is incredible. I just won,'" Preetha said.

Now that she won the regional portion of the competition, Preetha will be heading to Nova Scotia for the finals and a chance to win a $20,000 RESP.

Where the leaders are today

Stephen Harper — Ottawa, London, Ont.; Stéphane Dion — St. John's, N.L.; Jack Layton — Halifax, Dartmouth, N.S.; Gilles Duceppe — Senneterre, Rouyn-Noranda, Chibougamau, Que.; Elizabeth May — New Glasgow, Pictou, N.S. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Election 2008

Backwards – the way to read an ad

How you say something, especially on TV, can be even more important than what you say

MIKE TENNANT
for Metro Canada

News analysis

One of the best ways to interpret advertising, election or otherwise, is to learn to read an ad backwards — or sdrawkcab, for those who already possess the skill.

To that end, let me teach you a little game I've learned after 25 years in the marketing business. When you first see a campaign ad, go backwards in your mind and imagine yourself at the meeting where it was first conceived. Now imagine someone presenting the "brief": A document outlining the need for the ad and its specific objective. The content of an ad brief is usually a jealously guarded secret, which makes the guessing game all the more fun.

I'll show you what I mean: Consider a Conservative ad running this past week, featuring a Stephen Harper monologue. He's talking about ... well ... for our purpose it doesn't matter because an essential part of so many TV ads is unspoken. Herein lies one of the poorest-kept secrets in my trade: How you say something, especially in a TV ad, can be as important — even more important — than what you say.

The ad opens on the prime minister in a wing chair in a homey environment. He's wearing a light blue shirt and a dark sweater vest. The colour of his eyes evokes memories of Lake Louise in June. He's leaning forward in a heart-to-heart manner; his tone is soft and friendly. An occasional downward glance suggests he's searching his heart — if not the carpet fibres — for just the right words. Most importantly, we hear a touchy-feely piano track, the kind that screams, "Please, someone, hug me!"

Now, work backwards with me to the meeting that first begat the Harper ad. I'll bet the brief presented that day might have read something like this:

On the web

- See metronews.ca/canada for the Stephen Harper ad referred to in Mike Tennant's column.

Required: 30-second TV ad. Objective: Portray the PM as warm, human, emotional. Background: Designed to soften the opposition-inspired image of the PM as an iceman-ideologue, more interested in policy abstractions than in people and what affects them personally. Ad should reveal warmth within PM's often cool-looking exterior. Wardrobe note: Go with a dark sweater vest — it's slimming.

The trick to this game is remembering that every ad is about solving a problem. By seeing a campaign ad as a solution, you can usually work backwards, and deduce the problem that inspired it. If nothing else, it's a nifty way to sneak a look inside a party's campaign playbook.

Mike Tennant is a freelance ad writer and co-creator/writer of Terry O'Reilly and the Age of Persuasion on CBC Radio One.

On Tuesday, October 14, vote.

A federal general election is taking place on October 14, 2008.

To vote, you must:

- be a Canadian citizen
- be at least 18 years old on election day
- **prove your identity and address**

Voting in advance

You can vote before election day. Locations of advance polling stations appear on the back of your voter information card.

You can also vote by mail or at your local Elections Canada office using the special ballot if you make the request by 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 7. Download the *Application for Registration and Special Ballot* form at **www.elections.ca** by clicking on "I'm Mailing My Vote!" or call now.

Remember, you can only vote once. After you have registered to vote by special ballot, you cannot vote any other way in this election.

New identification rules to vote

When you vote, you must prove your identity and address.

For the list of acceptable pieces of identification authorized by the Chief Electoral Officer of Canada, please see the pamphlet that you will soon receive by mail from Elections Canada or visit **www.elections.ca** and click on "Voter Identification at the Polls".

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Elections Canada

Did you know?

Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean

The makeup of Parliament

TRIVIA Canada's Parliament consists of the Queen of Canada, who is represented by the Governor General, the Senate, whose members are appointed by the Governor General on the recommendation of the prime minister, and the House of Commons, whose members are chosen by eligible citizens through federal elections.

ELECTIONS CANADA

News in brief

TRAVEL The Jack Layton campaign criss-crossed the nation this past week flying a total of 22.8 hours, or 13,484 kilometres, and landed in 11 cities stretching from Vancouver to St. John's. The New Democratic Party leader visited six provinces and one territory.

VOTES In 2006, 14,908,703 votes were cast. More than 1,561,039 voters cast their ballots at more than 3,371 polling stations on the three days of advance voting before election day.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

29 days remain until the 2008 Canadian federal election

Election 2008

Tories gaining with urban voters: Poll

ROB ANNANDALE
for Metro Vancouver

While the last federal election worked out pretty well for Stephen Harper's Conservatives, the cold shoulder they got from Canada's three biggest cities helped keep them from winning a majority.

A new Harris/Decima poll suggests the Tories are gaining ground among urban voters but does that really mean things will change in Vancouver's five ridings this time around?

In a nutshell, no, say the experts.

While the NDP could poach a couple of the city's seats from the four won by Liberals in 2006, the Conservatives haven't done themselves any favours by re-igniting the abortion debate and opposing Vancouver's Insite supervised injection project, according to University of Victoria political science professor Dennis Pilon. "In a way, these policies just play to their base, which they've already got."

Angus Reid pollster Mario Canseco agrees that Tory social values are likely to hurt them in Vancouver unless promises of increased infrastructure funding can woo voters.

He believes the party's best hope lies in Vancouver Quadra where Conservative candidate Deborah Meredith lost by only 151 votes in a March byelection.

Meredith thinks people in her riding like her talk of lowering taxes and fighting crime and could help her party move in from the suburbs.

"It'll be close but the signs are good," she said.

Her opponent, Liberal MP Joyce Murray, reads the trends a little differently.

"Since the byelection, there's been a lot more evidence that Mr. Harper can't be trusted," she said, citing controversies over campaign funding, fixed election dates and attack ads.

Flying the friendly skies

• The verdict is in — reporters have christened Stephen Harper's campaign plane Sweater Vest Jet, a nod to Harper's carefully calculated image move this campaign to dress casually at some stops. The name beat out Fruit Fly, which was was in reference to Harper's response last week that he considered himself more of a fruit than a vegetable. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Dion puts rocky start behind him

Brushing aside the Liberal party's dismal showing in the polls, Stéphane Dion heads back out on the election trail today convinced he is running a campaign that may have winning potential.

Dion feels he has put his rocky start behind him.

"I'm very satisfied," he said in Vancouver on the weekend when reporters asked how he felt about his first week on the campaign trail. After a string of glaring Conservative gaffes and impressive turnouts at his events in Vancouver on Friday and Saturday, Dion appears much more upbeat and at ease as he addresses the public.

The challenge for Dion now is to keep hammering home his key messages, especially his complex and politically risky green plan.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Surprise

• Dion also has to find a way to better connect personally with voters. By the end of last week, his more relaxed, friendly demeanour was surprising audiences expecting to hear from a stuffy policy wonk.

PATRICK DOYLE/REUTERS

Supporters applaud NDP Leader Jack Layton as he speaks at a brunch yesterday in Gatineau, Que.

Layton will continue to hound Harper

NDP Leader Jack Layton will ratchet up his attack on Prime Minister Stephen Harper in the second week of the campaign in addition to making cornerstone announcements on health care and poverty, a party spokesman says.

"Harper is a catastrophe for women in Canada."
Jack Layton

With Layton ahead of Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion in polls on who would be the best prime minister, party spokesman Brad Lavigne said the campaign is underscoring the need to make Harper the target, not Dion.

Layton emphasized that point yesterday, calling Harper's government a disaster on gender issues.

"(Harper) does not like the pursuit of equality for women," Layton said in French to 100 supporters at a restaurant in Gatineau, Que. "Harper is a catastrophe for women in Canada."

Layton pointed to the government's changes last year to groups funded by Status of Women Canada — changes that included deleting the word "equality" from funding criteria.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

When you spend, you save.
And you save some more.

New Delhi police question bombing suspects

Police rounded up suspects in New Delhi yesterday after serial bombings in the capital a day earlier killed at least 21 people and wounded nearly 100. Throughout Saturday night, hundreds of people were questioned. REUTERS

World

Plastics under review

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration this week reopens the debate over a chemical used in many plastic products, including baby bottles. The agency drafted a report last month saying bisphenol A, or BPA, was safe, but critics say strong evidence to the contrary has been ignored. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Ike relief efforts begin

Damage assessments could reach $18B

Texas mounted its biggest-yet rescue effort as search teams searched through debris and flooded homes yesterday, after Hurricane Ike cut a swathe of destruction and left millions without power.

State and local officials asked the federal government to speed up relief efforts while warning people not to return home until it was safe.

Some 2 million people left the region, and about 2,000 had been rescued from flooded areas.

To add to the misery, officials warned of possible gasoline shortages even as the price of fuel was rising at the pump.

Ike slammed into the Texas coast early Saturday and moved inland to Houston, the heart of the U.S. oil industry, forcing many refineries to shut down as a precaution.

U.S. President George W. Bush, who will visit Texas Tuesday, said it was too early to determine the extent of the damage to U.S. energy infrastructure. The storm also halted crude oil production in the Gulf of Mexico, representing a quarter of U.S. output.

Authorities in Houston ordered a weeklong curfew because of flooding and downed power lines. Widespread outages could last for weeks.

Damage assessments have barely begun, but early estimates suggest the bill could rise to $18 billion.

Local officials said rescue crews found at least three bodies on Galveston, an island city of 60,000 that had been shredded by the storm. REUTERS

Florida buyers report gas gouging

- Florida regulators subpoenaed records from Flying J, Dodge's Gas Stores, Valero and Pilot, the four gas companies named most often in 360 price complaints after Hurricane Ike hit. Some Florida stations were selling fuel at $5.36 US per gallon — well over the state average of $3.799.

West Bank **Israelis to leave?**

GIL COHEN MAGEN/REUTERS

An Israeli woman walks with her children in Ma'ale settlement near the West Bank city of Ramallah. Israel's vice-premier proposed paying thousands of Jewish settlers to leave their homes in the West Bank.

News in brief

GEORGIA President Mikheil Saakashvili had long planned a strike to seize the breakaway region of South Ossetia but executed it poorly, making it easy for Russia to retaliate, his ex-defence minister Irakly Okruashvili said. Saakashvili has maintained Russia started the war by invading his country. But Okruashvili said he and the president worked together on plans to invade Georgia's two rebel regions.

RUSSIA Engine failure caused an Aeroflot Boeing 737-500 plane to crash in Russia yesterday, killing all 88 people on board. The dead included 21 foreign nationals flying from Moscow to Perm in the Urals when it plunged into scrubland at the edge of the city.

CHILE South American leaders are gathering in Santiago today in an effort to prevent crisis in Bolivia. About 30 people have died in the past week in clashes between supporters of President Evo Morales and the right-wing governors he opposes. REUTERS

Obama raises record $66 million

POLITICS U.S. Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama's fundraising machine rolls on with a record $66 million raised in August alone and 500,000 new donors aboard, a spokesman said yesterday.

Obama was running even or slightly behind rival John McCain in opinion polls, but beat him in fundraising throughout the summer.

The latest tally exceeded the $55 million he raised for February, which marked an all-time high for any presidential candidate during a primary.

The Obama campaign said its cash at hand at the end of August was more than $77 million, and that its total number of donors is now 2.5 million. REUTERS

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U21Global recently unveiled its newest offering, an international MBA, which includes a 12-day study trip to Beijing and Singapore (the C$43,500 tuition covers airfare and accommodation) as well as numerous incentives for students at different levels.

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The flexibility of the school allows busy entrepreneurs like 29-year-old Toronto resident Waqar Ahmadi to participate in an internationally accredited MBA program.

"Learning from professors around the world helped me gain an international perspective on business matters," says Ahmadi, for whom attending classes at a traditional university was not an option. "I've developed strong leadership, critical-analysis and decision-making skills that are relevant to my business—international automotive wholesale. Every single day, I can see the results of my studies with U21Global."

U21Global is holding an information session on Tuesday, September 16, 6:00–7:30 p.m., Room 3100, Simon Fraser University at Harbour Centre, 515 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, B.C. You can visit **www.u21global.ca/metro** for more information.

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AIG to sell assets
American International Group Inc., left with deep financial scars from losses on guarantees it wrote to cover mortgage-linked securities, is expected to sell off assets. REUTERS

Business

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Oil falls to six-month low in Ike aftermath

U.S. oil prices dropped more than $2 to a six-month low below $99 a barrel yesterday as dealers bet on a swift recovery of the nation's energy production after Hurricane Ike and the U.S. government loaned emergency oil to two refiners.

The losses add to a downwards trend in oil prices since July's peak of over $147 a barrel amid mounting evidence that high energy costs and a weakening economy are cutting into fuel consumption.

Oil prices were down $2.01 at $99.17 a barrel yesterday after falling as low as $98.55 – the lowest since Feb. 26.

The U.S. government said yesterday it loaned a total of 309,000 barrels of strategic crude to two oil refiners having trouble procuring supplies in the storm's wake, ConocoPhillips and Placid Oil.

Even as oil prices fell, gas prices at U.S. pumps shot up more than six cents to nearly $3.80 a gallon, adding to a five-cent increase yesterday as retail supply concerns mounted in Ike's wake. REUTERS

Refineries spared

- Twelve of the 15 Texas oil refineries shuttered ahead of Hurricane Ike showed no visible signs of flooding or damage in the storm's wake, a Reuters eyewitness said yesterday, meaning fuel production could resume more quickly than initially thought.

Tokyo H&M debuts in Japan

TORU HANAI/REUTERS

A woman carrying a Zara shopping bag walks past the H&M store in Tokyo's Ginza shopping district on the opening day of the chain's first store in ultra-competitive Japan.

Google hopes Android is a wireless hit

WIRELESS Google Inc. is hoping to revolutionize wireless Internet service on mobile phones the way that it tra nsformed search engines on PCs with its new Android software.

The Android phone is depending on independent software developers to build hundreds or even thousands of programs, such as photo sharing, to run on Google software.

One of Google's challenges will be for webpage access to work on a mobile device as well as it does on a PC. The Android browser is built on the same technology as the new Google Chrome browser.

T-Mobile is expected to introduce the phone on Sept. 23. REUTERS

NZ company knew of tainted milk

CHINA New Zealand dairy giant Fonterra said yesterday it had been told in August that its Chinese partner, Sanlu Group, was selling contaminated milk now linked to the sickness of more than 400 babies and at least one death.

Sanlu was ordered to halt production last week after a preliminary investigation found that the chemical compound melamine in its powder was causing kidney stones in infants. REUTERS

METRO Vancouver

1190 Homer Street, Suite 250
Vancouver, BC V6B 2X6
Tel: 604-602-1002
Fax: 1-866-254-6504

Advertising: 604-602-1002
adinfovancouver@metronews.ca
Distribution inquiries:
vancouver_distribution@metronews.ca

metro_inquiries@metronews.ca
vancouverletters@metronews.ca

Local:
Publisher, Maryse Lalonde
Managing Editor, Fernando Carneiro
fernando.carneiro@metronews.ca
Distribution Supervisor, George Acimovic
Marketing Manager, Olga Edwards
National:
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Bank of America buying Merrill Lynch: Source

Merrill Lynch & Co. Inc., which has posted more than $40 billion in write-downs and credit losses over the last year, has agreed to sell itself to Bank of America Corp for $44 billion, or $29 a share, a source briefed on the matter said yesterday. REUTERS

Retailers grapple with Ike

Retailers in the Houston area scrambled yesterday to stock shelves and open stores forced to close, as they tried to meet high demand for emergency supplies in the wake of Hurricane Ike.

Ike, which slammed into the Texas coast as a Category 2 hurricane Saturday, flooded hundreds of miles of U.S. coastline, cut power to millions of people and pummeled the oil hub of Houston.

While the actual storm itself was not as bad as the worst fears had predicted, analysts said the economic damage could still be quite significant, aiding retailers who sell necessities and hurting those who are more discretionary.

"The impact is going to be much more significant than people thought."
Evan Gold

Evan Gold, with weather tracking firm Planalytics, said the economic impact of the storm could be magnified since it rolled over the country's fourth most populous city and the heart of its oil industry.

"From an energy and a retail perspective, the impact is going to be much more significant than people thought," Gold said.

REUTERS

Germany **Nuclear protest**

REUTERS/KAI PFAFFENBACH

A protester wearing a gas mask holds a placard reading "Staudinger smells to heaven" during a demonstration in front of the cooling towers at the 'Staudinger' coal power plant of German E.ON energy company in Grosskrotzenburg, 30km south of Frankfurt, Saturday.

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Beef, piracy on agenda for U.S.-China trade talks

MEETING The United States will press China to drop its 5-year-old ban on U.S. beef and take a tougher stand against piracy and counterfeiting of U.S. goods when top officials from both countries meet this week at the Richard Nixon presidential library in Yorba Linda, California.

"It's really too early to say what progress we will have in the area of beef. But ag issues are on the agenda," U.S. Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez said in an interview ahead of the talks that begin today.

Like many countries, China closed its market to U.S. beef after the first case of mad cow disease was found in the United States in December 2003. The Bush administration hailed China's conditional agreement in April 2006 to reopen its market but, more than two years later, that still hasn't happened.

A second U.S. trade official, speaking on condition he not be identified, said that conditions probably still are not right to resolve the beef spat.

The U.S.-China Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade is holding its 25th anniversary meeting in Nixon's hometown to capture the symbolism of the late president's historic 1972 trip to China to reopen relations, Gutierrez said.

"It's really too early to say what progress we will have in the area of beef."
Carlos Gutierrez

He and U.S. Trade Representative Susan Schwab lead the talks for the United States and Vice Premier Wang Qishan for China. U.S. Agriculture Secretary Ed Schafer and Chinese Commerce Minister Chen Deming will also attend.

The United States will be pressing China on "three big buckets" of concerns, Gutierrez said.

Those include China's high rates of piracy and counterfeiting, a number of specific obstacles to imports of U.S. agricultural and manufacturing goods and opaque regulations that are a barrier to trade, he said.

REUTERS

In **brief**

ITALY The Italian government scrambled for a deal with airline workers yesterday, negotiating into the night in a bid to save Alitalia from collapse. With Alitalia's operating licence in jeopardy and the likelihood that it will have to ground flights starting today due to a lack of fuel, the airline's unions faced a stark choice between a rescue plan with job and salary cuts and pushing the carrier into liquidation.

VIDEO GAMES U.S. video game giant Electronic Arts Inc has pulled away from an offer to buy rival Take Two Interactive Software Inc after pursuing the Grand Theft Auto game publisher for more than six months. Yesterday, EA said it ended private negotiations with Take Two about a potential transaction and had decided to no longer pursue an acquisition. EA and Take Two entered these private talks last month. REUTERS

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PCTIA ACCREDITED

Plants, animals endangered

Climate change is predicted to endanger 1 million species of plants and animals by 2050, according to The Live Earth: Global Warming Survival Handbook by David de Rothschild. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Going Green

Save on wardrobe

Looking to save money on your wardrobe — swap and share clothes with friends who have similar tastes and size, according to Greeniology: How To Live Well, Be Green And Make A Difference by Tanya Ha.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: MIKE DEREZYCKY, MIKE.DEREZYCKY@METRONEWS.CA

Become informed

Know the issues as election fever starts to heat up

ScienceMatters

David Suzuki & Dr. Faisal Moola

With all the elections coming this fall and winter, global warming is bound to spike up with the increased hot air. South of the border, they're electing a president and here in Canada we're heading into a federal election, and here in Vancouver, we'll vote for a new civic government in November.

It would be great if the environment didn't have to be an election issue. If all political parties recognized it's an issue so critical that it should transcend partisan politics, then we could vote for our party of choice based on its fiscal and social policies. The goal should be to convince all political parties to make the environment the top priority rather than to vote for the party with the best environmental record and policies. But the environment is an election issue, and as our situation stands, it should be the top election issue, especially in our upcoming federal election.

After all, if we keep dragging our heels on environmental protection, our economic and social systems will, at best, face increasing stress from the costs of dealing with environmental health effects and diminishing resources, and, at worst, be moot points.

But it's difficult for voters to cut through all the rhetoric.

I can't tell you which party to vote for; I'm not even sure which one I'll vote for! But I can say that it's vitally important for all Canadians to put the environment at the top of the agenda in this election. That means becoming informed about the issues and the various party positions on those issues and asking the candidates some direct questions.

Dr. David T. Suzuki is a Vancouver-based award-winning scientist, environmentalist and broadcaster.

Offsets can minimize 'green' debt

Eco-Minded

Kai Chan with James Tansey

Climate change is happening and many Canadians want to help prevent further and drastic changes. Per person, our greenhouse gas pollution is among the highest in the world.

To reduce their effective emissions of carbon dioxide (their carbon debt), many companies and individual Canadians are turning to "offsets" to mitigate their carbon debt by investing in projects that prevent emissions elsewhere. Consider Pedro and Maya.

Pedro replaces his SUV with a hybrid, replaces his home appliances with energy-efficient ones, and changes all his light bulbs to compact fluorescents. It costs him $10,000 and he reduces his debt by five tons.

Maya has already done all that and she wants to do more. She pays Offsetters.ca to do research and work with cash-strapped farmers (for example) who want to upgrade their greenhouses for energy efficiency, but don't have the capital. Maya's $100 also reduces her debt by five tons.

$10,000 vs. $100 — you do the math. Pedro and Maya prevent the same amount of emissions, but Maya employs a professional organization to leverage her money where it can do the most good, 100 times cheaper than Pedro. Offsetting is like investing in a mutual fund instead of starting up a new business: It's much more effective if you have little money.

Both Maya and Pedro are climate heroes. With offsetting and life changes, you can be one, too.

Costs

- Typical cost of offsets per ton: $15-20.
- Cost to go carbon neutral for individual emissions: Less than $200/year.

Kai Chan is an assistant professor and Canada Research Chair at the Institute for Resources, Environment, and Sustainability (IRES) at UBC. James Tansey is an associated professor at the Sauder School of Business and the Centre for Applied Ethics at UBC. He is also co-founder of Offsetters.ca.

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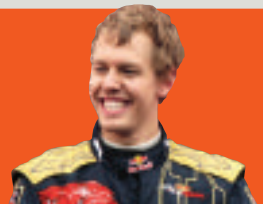
Cubs' Zambrano no-hits Astros
Carlos Zambrano threw the first Chicago Cubs no-hitter in 36 years, as the right-hander struck out 10 and walked only one and hit another in Chicago's 5-0 triumph over the red-hot Houston Astros. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports



Vettel youngest F1 winner ever

Germany's Sebastian Vettel, left, stunned Formula One as the sport's youngest race winner on Sunday with an exuberant victory for tiny Toro Rosso at their home Italian Grand Prix. The 21-year-old, already the youngest to start a grand prix on pole position, gave his Ferrari-powered team their first win with a remarkably assured drive through spray and slippery conditions. REUTERS

EDITOR: JONATHAN P. KUEHLEIN, SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

Defensive end still dominant

Lion's Cam Wake on track for second straight player of the year award

Lost in all of the talk about the Lions' recent resurgence on offense is the absolutely dominant season of defensive end Cam Wake.

Last year's CFL Defensive Player of the Year and Rookie of the Year is having an even better campaign this time around, which is remarkable because he is no longer an unknown entity. Every week, an opposing offensive coordinator draws up a game plan designed to limit Wake's impact, and every week Wake foils the strategy.

Wake's league-leading fifteen sacks are nearly double that of teammate Brent Johnson, who sits second in that CFL category, and he has more tackles than any other defensive lineman in the league. After Wake is named the CFL's best defender for the second straight season, the only unknown will be the NFL team that he chooses to sign with in 2009.

• Charles Roberts' debut with the Leos should be classified a success based on the fact the positives outweighed the negatives on Saturday night.

Yes, he fumbled once, and there was confusion at times as the Lions used some new personnel groups as part incorporating Roberts into the offense, but his spectacular 18 yard touchdown run capped a fairly impressive first game in black and orange that saw him surpass 10,000 yards rushing for his career.

Roberts' insertion into the running game also resulted in a number of highlight reel returns for the man he bumped from the backfield, Stefan Logan.

Logan electrified the home crowd on multiple occasions as both a punt and kickoff returner, racking up 176 yards on nine runbacks. Those performances make it unlikely that incumbent special teams ace Ian Smart will get back into the lineup next week when the Lions travel to Saskatchewan for the rematch with the Roughriders.

• After strutting their stuff for the coaching staff this weekend, the Canucks' prospects will travel to Camrose, Alberta today for a pair of games against youngsters from other organizations.

The Canucks' hopefuls will face their counterparts from the Flames' franchise tonight before squaring off with the Oilers' prospects on Tuesday. Not surprisingly, prized rookie Cody Hodgson drew plenty of praise from the coaching staff in the past two days, as did local speedster Prab Rai, who was also drafted in June.

Scott Rintoul is a college athlete, sports fan and broadcaster. He can be heard Monday-Friday on the TEAM 1040 from 6-9 a.m.

locals pull off gridiron upsets

• A quick note from the gridiron, as both local universities pulled off significant upsets on Saturday. SFU toppled the second-ranked team in Canada, the Saskatchewan Huskies, 27-17 at BC Place, while UBC shocked the defending Vanier Cup Champion Manitoba Bisons 28-0 in Winnipeg.

SCOREBOARD

MLB

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE
Boston 4 Toronto 3
Baltimore 7 Minnesota 3
Chicago Sox 4 Detroit 2 (1st gm)
Kansas City 13 Cleveland 3
L.A. Angels 4 Seattle 3
N.Y. Yankees 8 Tampa Bay 4
Oakland 7 Texas 4
Chicago Sox 11 Detroit 7 (2nd gm)

NATIONAL LEAGUE
Atlanta 7 N.Y. Mets 4
Chicago Cubs 5 Houston 0
Cincinnati 2 Arizona 1 (10 ings)
Colorado 1 L.A. Dodgers 0 (10 ings)
Florida 8 Washington 7
Philadelphia 7 Milwaukee 3 (1st gm)
Philadelphia 6 Milwaukee 1 (2nd gm)
Pittsburgh 7 St. Louis 2
San Francisco 8 San Diego 6 (10 ings)

CFL

SATURDAY'S RESULT
B.C. 28 Saskatchewan 23

NFL

WEEK 2
YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Arizona 31 Miami 10
Buffalo 20 Jacksonville 16
Carolina 20 Chicago 17
Denver 39 San Diego 38
Green Bay 48 Detroit 25
Indianapolis 18 Minnesota 15
New England 19 N.Y. Jets 10
N.Y. Giants 41 St. Louis 13
Oakland 23 Kansas City 8
San Francisco 33 Seattle 30 (OT)
Tampa Bay 24 Atlanta 9
Tennessee 24 Cincinnati 7
Washington 29 New Orleans 24
Pittsburgh 10 Cleveland 6

TONIGHT'S GAME
Philadelphia at Dallas, 5:30

SOCCER

GAMES FEATURING THE VANCOUVER WHITECAPS:
SATURDAY'S RESULT
VANCOUVER 1 Montreal 0

University of Windsor opens $1.5M med school

The University of Windsor officially opened its new $15-million medical school, which is a satellite program of the University of Western Ontario's Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

Anti-intellectualism

The Conservative Party is portraying Liberal leader Stéphane Dion as an out-of-touch, nerdy professor in its election ads, and the use of anti-intellectualism doesn't play well in Canada, according to CAUT president James Turk.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS DUNLOP, DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

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Acting on the swing

OddJobs

Diane Peters

If you go out to see a big, touring musical this year — say, the Monty Python inspired Spamalot — keep in mind that every actor mentioned in your program might not be onstage that night. Actors get sick, they pull muscles in dance numbers and they sometimes need a vacation from a nonstop tour.

Lead actors get covered by their understudies. But what about smaller roles? Those jobs get taken care of by swing actors. These masters of multitasking have to know multiple parts and perform them as perfectly as the regular actor.

That's what 25-year-old Graham Bowen is doing for Spamalot, which he joined in April 2007. Bowen knows all the lines, singing lines and dance steps for six ensemble roles in the show. These parts are multiple roles in themselves: the actors switch throughout the show to play as many as five characters like knights, monks and nuns.

Bowen began acting at age nine and moved from Columbus, Ohio, to New York City at age 11. He went to a performing arts high school there and got a break doing Big: The Musical in 1996 and has worked steadily ever since. "I consider myself a triple threat: equal parts dancer, singer and actor."

He was first asked to be a swing for the 2003 Broadway revival of Gypsy. "I'd never done a swing job before, it took a lot of trial and error." He auditioned specifically to be a swing for Spamalot, knowing it would be a challenging job that would never get dull.

He got the job, as well as the assignment of dance caption for the show. (For this job, he's responsible for making sure everyone in the show sticks to the choreography.) At the start of the three-week rehearsal process, Bowen mainly took notes. "It's the swing's job to watch all of those guys and follow every thing that they do." He joined in when the ensemble sang together, and did dance moves off in the wings. He also worked outside of rehearsal time to hone his lines and singing parts.

During the show's run, Bowen and the three other swings show up at the same time as the other actors, even if they're not expected to go on — someone could become unwell at the last minute or get injured during the show. Bowen can go several nights without acting onstage, but he can also play as many as four different roles in one week. "We swings are never sitting on the sidelines for long."

That's partly because most of the ensemble actors act as understudies for the lead roles. One night on the tour, a lead actor was out, an ensemble player was on holiday and another took ill. With just two male swing actors, the cast had a major problem. One of the female swings took one of the roles — the one that didn't involve lifting anyone during dance numbers — and the show went on.

Swing actors are lit up by spotlights like these while wearing many different outfits

Diane Peters once hawked magic pens at the Canadian National Exhibition. She's now a writer and part-time journalism instructor.

The Lowdown

Job title: Swing actor
Salary: $70,000 to $90,000
Education/training: Training in acting, dancing and singing — either from a theatre school or through professional classes and workshops
Best Part of the Job: "You get to always be doing something new, it never gets boring."
Worst Part of the Job: "Those nights that you really want to be onstage and you're not out there."

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Crawford new face of Versace

Chace Crawford has reportedly been lined up to be the new face of Versace. The Gossip Girl star is said to be close to signing a deal to replace Grey's Anatomy actor Patrick Dempsey as the face of the fashion label. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

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EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA

Twist is top song of Billboard era

Magazine unveils All-Time Hot 100 chart

BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
for Metro Canada

It's a favourite pastime for music junkies everywhere: debating the best recordings of all time. Well, you can stop the arguing because Billboard has the answer — Chubby Checker's version of The Twist.

While it might surprise some that a Beatles tune didn't top Billboard's All-Time Hot 100 chart, which the publication's editors compiled in honour of the mag's 50th anniversary, The Twist was a powerhouse of a song when it was released in 1960.

"It was on the charts for 39 weeks," says Geoff Mayfield, Billboard's director of charts. "And it was the only song to hit No. 1 twice — in 60 and 61."

The Beatles did have one tune in the top 10 — Hey Jude ranked No. 8, while Santana's Smooth, Bobby Darin's Mack The Knife, LeAnn Rimes' How Do I Live and Los Del Rio's Macarena rounded out the top 5.

Mayfield says the Beatles could have charted higher, except for one problem —they were always competing against themselves. "During one week in 1964 they owned every title in the top five," says the Billboard chart guru. "Fewer songs went No. 1 than people realize."

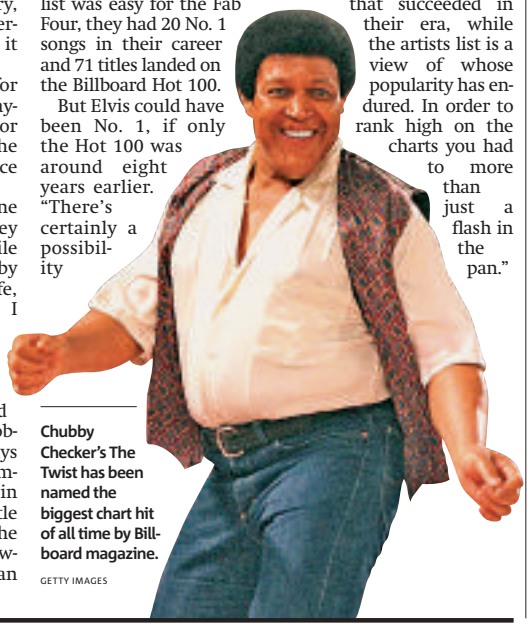
"It was on the charts for 39 weeks. And it was the only song to hit No. 1 twice — in 60 and 61." Billboard's Geoff Mayfield

However, the band did top Billboard's All-Time Top Artists chart, with Madonna, Elton John, Elvis Presley and Stevie Wonder trailing closely behind. Topping this list was easy for the Fab Four, they had 20 No. 1 songs in their career and 71 titles landed on the Billboard Hot 100.

But Elvis could have been No. 1, if only the Hot 100 was around eight years earlier. "There's certainly a possibility that he would have topped the All-Time Artists chart," says Mayfield. "He had 108 singles on the Hot 100, but ten of his No. 1 hits launched before our chart did."

To compile the All-Time Hot 100 list, Billboard's staff took a look at all the singles that made the charts in the last 50 years, and assigned weightings based on era, how long a song charted for and what positions it held.

So what can musicphiles learn from this list? "It's a fun snapshot of the songs that succeeded in their era, while the artists list is a view of whose popularity has endured. In order to rank high on the charts you had to more than just a flash in the pan."



Chubby Checker's The Twist has been named the biggest chart hit of all time by Billboard magazine.
GETTY IMAGES

Box office

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theatres:

1. **Burn After Reading:** $19.4 million US
2. **The Family That Preys:** $18 million
3. **Righteous Kill:** $16.5 million
4. **The Women:** $10.1 million
5. **The House Bunny:** $4.3 million
6. **Tropic Thunder :** $4.2 million
7. **The Dark Knight:** $4 million
8. **Bangkok Dangerous:** $2.4 million
9. **Traitor:** $2.1 million
10. **Death Race:** $2 million

REUTERS

In brief

MUSIC Australia granted gangsta rapper Snoop Dogg a visa on Friday after public complaints over a planned tour in October, but said he would be required to undergo counselling before arriving Down Under. Snoop Dogg was refused permission to even apply for a visa to enter Australia in 2007 because of his criminal record. REUTERS

TV The Simpsons once again claimed television's highest honour for a prime-time cartoon Saturday at the Creative Arts Emmy Awards, extending the show's record winning streak. It marked the 10th time that The Simpsons was named best half-hour animated show. REUTERS

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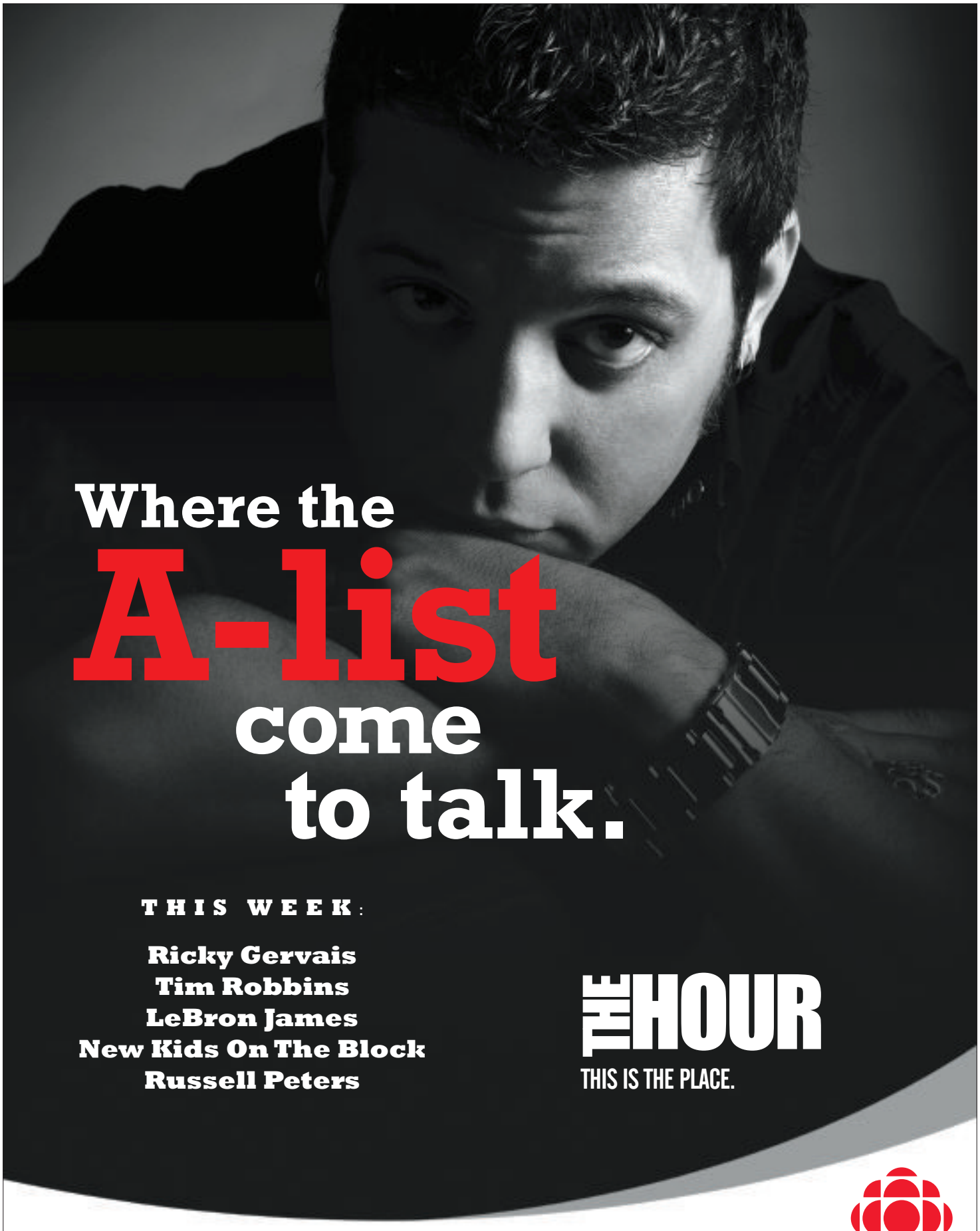
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New father figure

Wallace Shawn (The Princess Bride, Clueless) is joining Gossip Girl for a multi-episode arc as Cyrus, father to Serena's new artsy boyfriend Aaron (John Patrick Amedori). **EW.COM**

Going Out

- 7 p.m. Authors Joan Barfoot and Miriam Toews at a Vancouver International Writers Festival Event. At Granville Island Stage, 1585 Johnston St. Tix $15. Info: writersfest.bc.ca.
- 9 p.m. Fiesta Mexicana, the biggest Mexican Independence Day party. At AuBar, 674 Seymour St. Tix: $15. Info: 604-880-0323, 604-970-4491.
- 8 p.m. Brooke Fraser with special guests. At Richards on Richards, 1036 Richards St. Tix: $14.50. Info: livenation.com.
- 9 p.m. Profile Mondays, hosted by Naava and Marv and featuring DJs SupaFly and Feroz. At Tonic Nightclub, 919 Granville St. $20.
- 10 p.m. The Ice Cream Social, '50s and '60s hits with DJs Trevor Risk, Tyler Fedchuk and Cam Dales. At Shine Nightclub, 364 Water St. Info: shinenightclub.com.

In brief

FILM FEST Slumdog Millionaire, a tribute to the Indian metropolis of Mumbai and a story about a dream, won the top award at the Toronto Film Festival Saturday.

REUTERS

Fall season flopping

IntelleVision

Rick McGinnis
rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

FALLING FAST: The fall TV season has stumbled out of the gate with a lot of not particularly good news about shows that were supposed to take over our lives like food poisoning after a frat house cookout.

Weeks of relentless publicity carried out in spite of a lock-out that prevented critics from previewing the debut episode didn't end up doing the 90210 revival any favours, as the CW show lost almost 30 per cent of its viewers by its second week on the air, hinting that a lot of new shows are likely to lose traction from viewers more curious than committed.

Poor omen #2 is the disappointing turnout for J. J. Abrams' Fringe, which only attracted 9.1 million viewers for its premiere on Fox. "Only" 9.1 million is, of course, a number that has to be put through the executive TV business translator – shows survive on cable for years with a fraction of those numbers, after all – and the indispensable Lisa de Moraes of the Washington Post broke down the Fringe numbers in a column last week.

Fox turned that frown upside down by calling it the most watched network drama premiere in two years, but de Moraes noted the qualifier – that this was only true "excluding premieres following sports and American Idol." Using Fox's fine-tuned logic, that would make Fringe's debut the biggest single TV program audience ever in a month starting with an S, in a week with a hurricane alert, on a night where the governor of Alaska is getting more news coverage than said hurricane, and in the house where the show's set decorator lives.

By comparison, de Moraes points out, Fringe's first night did worse than the 2006 debut of Standoff, the hostage-negotiators-in-love police drama that limped to the end of its 18-episode run but remains unmemorialized on DVD. And since Standoff hit the air two years and four days before Fringe, the latter show can claim its title with an untroubled conscience.

"... (90210) lost almost 30 per cent of its viewers by its second week on the air, hinting that a lot of new shows are likely to lose traction from viewers more curious than committed."

Then de Moraes gets really mean, pointing out that Lost, Abrams' big hit, pulled in 19 million viewers on bottom-ranked ABC four years ago, not number one Fox, adding another four million viewers by its second week. Fringe might top 10 million viewers with its second episode this week, but it would only manage this prodigious feat after lukewarm-to-hostile reviews and by flaunting the "go ahead, impress me" impatience of viewers.

Fox might have more bad news coming compliments another TV creator whose reputation outstrips his track record, with the news that Joss Whedon has shut down production on his new series Dollhouse for two weeks. A TV week story reported that Fox was concerned with how unsympathetic the character played by the show's lead, Eliza Dushku, was coming off in already-complete episodes. Whedon has already shifted the show's pilot to episode 2 and rewrote the premiere; these failures of nerve are being excused as business as usual, but to viewers whose patience is diminishing as their viewing options are increasing, this might mean the fall season is setting itself up for a big, sloppy wet face-plant.

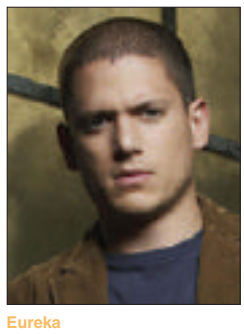
Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 9/15/08	251	308	3 CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Flood (2007) (Part 2 of 2) Robert Carlyle, Jessalyn Gilsig. (CC)		CBC News: The National (N)				(:05) The Hour
	255	358	6 JOY	E! News	The Insider	Batman Begins ★★★ (2005, Action) Christian Bale, Michael Caine. Premiere. (CC)						News (N)
	254	-	8 M	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Mandarin News		Cantonese News (N)		Punjabi News (In Punjabi N)		Metropia
	250	321	9 CTV	eTalk (CC)	Hollywood	Big Bang Th	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Old Christine	CSI: Miami "Going Ballistic"		News (N)
	-	-	10 OMNI	Scrubs (CC)	According-Jim	Stargate SG-1 (CC)		One Tree Hill (N) (CC)		The Daily	Perspectives	New Day
	252	336	11 GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	House "Wilson's Heart" (CC)		Prison Break (N) (CC)		Kitchen Nightmares (CC)		News (N)
	256	389	12 VI	Robson Arms	TMZ (N) (CC)	Gossip Girl "The Dark Night"		America's Toughest Jobs (N)		Comedy Now	Comedy Inc.	News (CC)
	253	359	13 CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Tomorrow Never Dies ★★★ (1997, Action) Pierce Brosnan, Jonathan Pryce. (CC)						Reviews
	-	-	14 CW	Deal-No Deal	Deal-No Deal	Gossip Girl "The Dark Night"		One Tree Hill (N) (CC)		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15 CBS	Entertainment	The Insider	Big Bang Th	How I Met	Two/Half Men	Old Christine	CSI: Miami "Going Ballistic"		News (N)
	287	379	16 NBC	Evening Mag.	Inside Edition	Deal or No Deal (N) (CC)		America's Toughest Jobs		Dateline NBC (N) (CC)		News (N)
	602	568	19 W	Will & Grace	Friends (CC)	How Clean	House	Love It or List It (N)		Real Est	Kim	House
	288	380	21 ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Batman Begins ★★★ (2005, Action) Christian Bale, Michael Caine. Premiere. (CC)						News (N)
	-	-	23 KVOS	M*A*S*H	Seinfeld	Error in Judgment (1998) Joe Mantegna, Joanna Pacula.				King	Still Standing	Scrubs (CC)
	291	383	27 PBS	Steves Europe	Antiques	Antiques Roadshow (CC)		My Music: My Generation -- The 60s (CC)				Amer. Masters
	290	382	28 FOX	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Sarah Connor Chronicles		Prison Break (N) (CC)		News (N) (CC)		Family Guy
	-	364	48 PBS	Change Your Brain, Change Your Life (CC)				You: Steps for Extending Your Warranty			Change Your Brain, Change	
	296	654	54 SBK	Frasier (CC)	Frasier (CC)	Cheers (CC)	South Park	Comics Un.	Half & Half	The Insider	Entertainment	Paid Program
	298	653	55 TLA	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Gossip Girl "The Dark Night"		One Tree Hill (N) (CC)		KTLA Prime News (CC)		Friends (CC)
	295	651	66 WGN	WGN News at Nine (N) (CC)		Family Guy	Two/Half Men	According-Jim	Sex and-City	Friends (CC)	Will & Grace	My Wife-Kids
	297	652	67 WPX	CW11 News at Ten		Two/Half Men	Friends (CC)	Sex and-City	Will & Grace	Frasier (CC)	George Lopez	Odd Couple
	199	311	76 STR	News (N)	News		Late Show-Letterman		ET Canada	Entertainment	Psych (CC)	
news	502	390	29 NW	Oil: Apocalypse Now? (N)		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National		Oil: Apocalypse Now? (CC)		National
	500	500	69 CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cooper 360
sports	407	419	22 RSP	Air Racing		Saturday Night Poker		Best Damn Sports Show		Sportsnet Connected		Sportsnet
	400	400	30 TSN	NFL Football: Eagles at Cowboys			SportsCentre (Live) (CC)		NFL Films	NASCAR Racing		SportsCentre
	411	457	49 OLN	Departures "Thailand" (CC)		Pilot Guides (CC)		Don't Forget Your Passport		Mantracker "Jordan & Suzie"		Departures
	410	403	54 SCR	WWE Monday Night Raw		(:15) Score Tonight		WWE Monday Night Raw (CC)				Cabby Unlimit
	417	406	55 SC	Barrett-Jackson		Pinks	Pass Time	This Week in NASCAR		101 Cars	101 Cars	Auctions
	416	409	144 GLF	Fútbol Español: Equipos SA		Gol TV News		Ole: La Liga		Paid Program	Kings Club	Gol TV News
family	552	543	25 YTV	The Next Star "The Duel"		Prank Patrol	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.	Adrenaline	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.
	555	545	50 TEL	George	Bugs Bunny & Tweety Show		6teen	Total Drama	Futurama	American Dad	Chicken	Life's a Zoo
	557	541	51 FAM	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
	553	546	56 TRE	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie	Beren. Bears	Babar (CC)	Backyard	Dora-Explorer	Go, Diego, Go!	The Bittles	Comfy Couch
cable variety	268	354	3 KNO	Undersea	Landscape	Childhood Lost		Me, My Brother-Van Gogh		Thin ★★★ (2006) Premiere. (CC)		
	575	583	20 CMT	Home Imp.	Home Imp.	Karaoke Star		Reba (CC)	Hope & Faith	Home Imp.	Home Imp.	Ed (CC)
	570	580	24 MM	Legally Blonde (CC)		MuchVibe (CC)		So You Think You Can Dance Canada (CC)				MuchVibe
	600	564	29 H&G	Location, Location, Location		Holmes on Homes (CC)		Design U	Home to Stay	Property	House	Location, Loc.
	615	520	31 A&E	Paranormal	Paranormal	Paranormal	Paranormal	Intervention "Derek" (CC)		Intervention "Kristen" (CC)		Paranormal
	628	584	32 SPKE	(6:00) UFC Best of 2007				Coaches	CSI: Crime Scene		Coaches	Deep Space 9
	521	560	34 TLC	Jon & Kate, Skiing		Kids by the Dozen (CC)		Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate, Skiing		Little People
	616	522	39 SHO	Love-Death	Love-Death	Painkiller Jane "Higher Court"		Kenny-Spenny	Rent-A-Goalie	Name Is Earl	Name Is Earl	The Office
	620	523	40 BVO	Death and The Maiden (CC)		Law & Order "Disappeared"		Without a Trace "Tail Spin"		Just a Kiss ★★ (2002) Ron Eldard. (CC)		
	601	562	41 SLC	Project Runway		End of Leash	Spoiled	Wedding SOS	Party Mamas	Project Runway		Trading Sp
	520	505	42 DIS	Dirty Jobs (N) (CC)		Daily Planet (CC)		Verminators		Dirty Jobs (CC)		MythBusters
	522	506	44 HIS	NCIS "Smoked" (CC)		Battle 360 (CC)		Tank Overhaul "The Panther"		NCIS "Smoked" (CC)		Crime Stories
	627	528	45 SPC	Eureka "What About Bob" (N)		Stargate SG-1 "Moebius"		Lost "White Rabbit" (CC)		Star Trek: Deep Space Nine		Star Trek
	294	650	47 TBS	Name Is Earl	Name Is Earl	Sex and-City	Sex and-City	Scream ★★★ (1996, Horror) (PA) Neve Campbell. (CC)				Turbulence ★
	619	525	48 TROP	TV Made	Very Bad Men (CC)		What	Make	TV Made	Planet Soap	Reality	Final 24 (CC)
	603	561	52 FN	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares		Restaurant Makeover (CC)		Iron Chef America (CC)		Good Eats	Perfection	Ramsay
	626	547	57 COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs (CC)		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	The Cho Show	Simple Life	Daily Show
	320	621	60 CEN	Stargate Atlantis (N) (CC)		Outpost (2008) Ray Stevenson. Premiere. (CC)		Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix ★★★ (2007) (CC)				
	581	566	101 MTV	The Hills	After	Paris Casting Special		Super Sweet	The Hills	The Hills	After	MTV Live
	261	394	102 V	Scared Sacred		Mysterious Ways "Twins"		Prime Minister	May-Dec.	McLeod's Daughters (CC)		Paid Program
	-	-	106 MUL	Matchmaker	Daughters	It Will Be Difficult to Love		Marimar		GMA Telesine Night		Patrol World

critics' corner

Prison Break

If it weren't for bad luck, they'd have no luck at all. But the tide may be turning for Michael and Lincoln (Wentworth Miller, Dominic Purcell); at least they got out of Sona and found out Sara (Sarah Wayne Callies) isn't dead after all. Let's see if their lucky streak holds out long enough for them to achieve their goal of taking down The Company. Michael Rapaport also stars in the new episode "Eagles and Angels." 6 PM on STR, GTV FOX



Eureka

Here, lizard, lizard ... . In this new episode, Jack and Allison (Colin Ferguson, Salli Richardson-Whitfield) enter a sealed biosphere owned by Global Dynamics when one of its long-term residents goes missing. He isn't dead — just the victim of some weird DNA mutation that is causing him and everyone else living there to turn reptilian. They need to find the culprit — and the cure — before the same fate befalls them in "What About Bob." 7 PM on SPC

Road Home rich, visual journey

BookPicks

The Road Home

Author: Rose Tremain
Publisher: Vintage Books
Price: $21.95 (Paperback)

Far from his native Eastern Europe, 42-year-old unemployed migrant Lev is on his way to England in pursuit of work. Leaving his mother and five-year-old daughter behind, Lev expresses how he still hasn't quite grown up, while continuing his struggle to reconcile the death of his wife by leukemia. Winner of the 2008 Orange Broadband Prize for Fiction, The Road Home describes Lev's visual journey in rich detail as he is introduced to a new and very alternative life than he is used to in a vogue and vicious London.

Brian Coulton/for Metro Canada

Coventry

Author: Helen Humphreys
Publisher: HarperCollins Publishers Ltd.
Price: $24.95 (Hardcover)

In the title British town, Harriet Marsh is spending one night atop a cathedral as a fire-watcher. In 1940s Britain, that means staking out the skies for the inevitable German offensive that will shake Coventry to its core. In story that balances hope and tragedy with Harriet's memories of love and loss, Humphreys evokes strong imagery while maintaining an involving narrative.

Brian Coulton/for Metro Canada

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Second baby
The Biggest Loser alumni Matt and Suzy Hoover welcomed their second boy on Thursday. Jax Paul, who was born in Seattle, joins older brother Rex Timothy. PEOPLE.COM

Celebrity Buzz

Anderson to Palin: 'Suck it'

POLITICS Don't expect former Baywatch star Pamela Anderson to support Republican vice-presidential nominee Sarah Palin, the New York Daily News reports.

Anderson, who was in Toronto for a speech railing against the abuse of animals in Hollywood, let loose on the Alaska governor. When Anderson was asked if she saw a recent Newsweek article that included a picture of a bear hide in Palin's office, Anderson took aim at Palin.

"I can't stand her," Anderson told E! News Weekend Canada. "She can suck it!"

METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Lohan denies she's marrying Ronson

RELATIONSHIPS Lindsay Lohan has denied reports she is set to wed rumoured girlfriend Samantha Ronson, imdb.com reports.

The actress was allegedly planning to walk down the aisle with the Los Angeles DJ after Ronson reportedly told party-goers at a recent gig: "By the end of the year, my love will be Mrs. Ronson."

Lohan was also seen sporting a diamond on her left ring finger, fuelling speculation about impending nuptials.

"They (reporters) lie. She bought it (the ring) herself. It's an antique ring that she found at an antiques store in NYC," a Lohan rep tells Access Hollywood.

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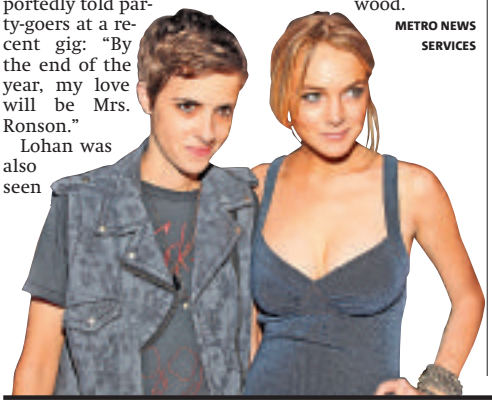

Richie reacts unkindly to fan's photo: Report

OUTBURST Nicole Richie clashed with a fan outside a New York nightclub, according reports.

The socialite allegedly became angry when a tourist attempted to take her picture as she left an after-party at Country Club, hosted by Mark and Samantha Ronson's fashion designer sister Charlotte as part of New York Fashion Week, imdb.com reports.

New York Post gossip column PageSix reports that Richie took offence and allegedly broke the girl's camera. "A young tourist was trying to take her photo," a source tells PageSix. Richie reportedly shouted, 'I'm not an animal,' then jumped over the velvet rope, ripped the camera out of the girl's hand and smashed it to the ground."

A representative for Richie could not be reached.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

DeGeneres scolds Seacrest, tells him to settle down

PEOPLE Newlywed Ellen DeGeneres has warned Ryan Seacrest to find a girlfriend soon before he gets too old to settle down, imdb.com reports.

DeGeneres wed her girlfriend Portia De Rossi last month, and now the talk-show host is urging the 33-year-old American Idol presenter to sort out his personal life before it is too late.

Speaking on her Ellen DeGeneres show, she says, "You're going to wait too long and get in a rut being single. You have to let go and be with someone. You're a great guy. You're funny, you're smart. You're getting old."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity brief

Fox says she prefers male friends

PEOPLE Megan Fox hates actresses, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The Transformers star admits she hasn't got any female friends in the industry and prefers hanging out with her male friends.

"I only had one girlfriend when I was growing up. Most of my friends were boys.

"I was such a tomboy."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity briefs

I'm no diva, Scarlett says

PEOPLE Scarlett Johansson has denied she is prone to "diva-like" behaviour, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The actress has hit out at reports suggesting she is difficult to work with, claiming she doesn't let her success go to her head.

"I'm not (a diva). I live a very modest and private lifestyle. Things get crazy with the media, but am I demanding or travel with a huge entourage? No!"

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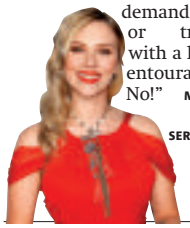

Butler's wild and crazy times

PEOPLE Gerard Butler was so wild in his youth he was convinced he would die young, imdb.com reports.

Butler gave up alcohol in his mid-20s because he would go off the rails when he was drunk. "I was totally wild," Butler tells British magazine Marie Claire. "I would headbutt walls, punch walls. I definitely had a suicide wish. I once woke up in Paris at 4 a.m., five miles from where I'd been at a party. I had gashes to my head, my face, my arms, and I had blood all over my clothes. To this day, I don't know what happened."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

"This makes no sense at all..."

by Joe O'Neill

At last, **Pam Anderson** has weighed in regarding the U.S. election. **Sarah Palin** "can suck it," opined the Canadian-born actress. Nice to know that Anderson, with her beauty beginning to fade, has her incisive intelligence and Kennedy School of Government education to fall back on. The issue would appear to be the presence of a bearskin rug seen in Palin's office. Anderson, a longtime PETA activist, cannot abide cruelty to animals, and it's alleged that Palin forced the bear to watch Pammie's VIP television series before she shot it. Seems to me that the bear is dead, and unlike current Vice-President **Dick Cheney**, she didn't shoot anyone in the face while hunting it, so full points for marksmanship.

Anyway, with the opinions of actuarial math whiz **Good Matt Damon**, and the **Kentucky Colonel Hater** now accounted for, it looks like Hollywood is finally getting back to doing what they do best: unwittingly helping to elect Republicans to the Oval Office. I can only hope that Anderson won't neglect to comment on the federal election being waged in the country of her birth.

Pammie, **Stephen Harper**'s on Line 1. He's wearing leather pants, eating from a bucket of extra crispy and he wants you to tell Canadians exactly what you think of him.

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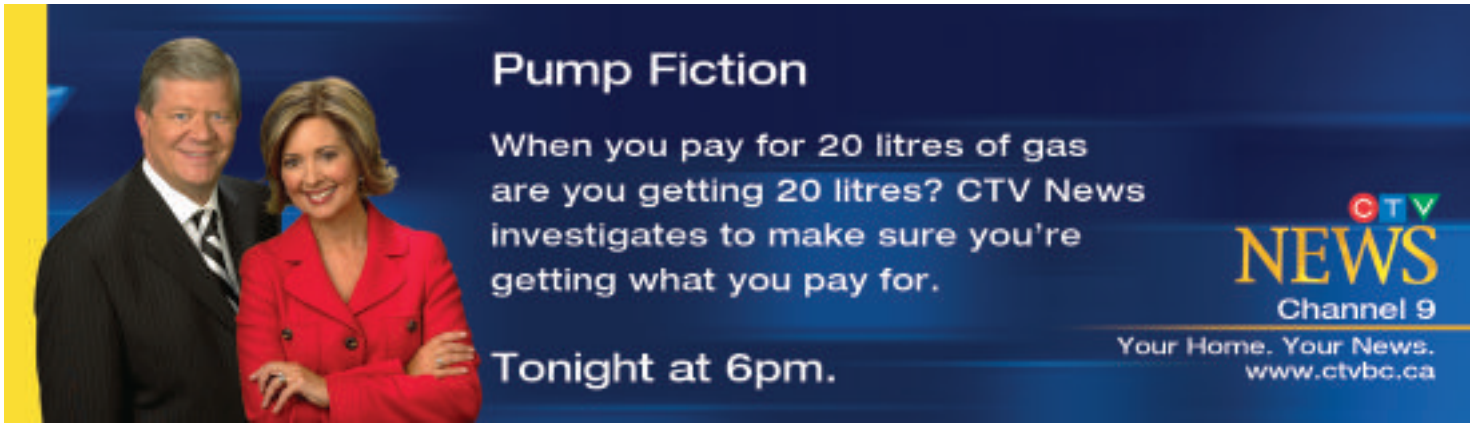
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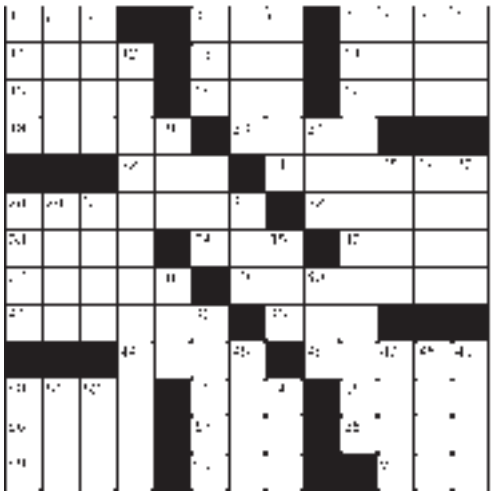
Shelton to play House
House has admitted Samantha Shelton (Monarch Cove) to play a fitness instructor who comes down with a stupefying illness in a November episode. EW.COM

Take Five



Crossword down

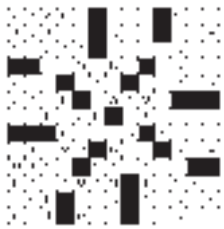
1 Amorphous mass
2 Hold the scepter
3 "Yeah, right!"
4 Lamb's mommy
5 Dalai —
6 Still-life subject, often
7 Corporate barrier of a sort
8 Intend
9 Rage
10 Light brown
12 Rose to address the group
19 Obtain
21 Twosome
23 Jewel
25 Gulf War missile
26 Entice
27 Piccadilly statue
28 Jacket
29 Call for silence
30 Rue the run
31 Massage
35 Solidify
38 Pigs' digs
40 Trinity member
42 Slow mover
45 MRI forerunner
47 Toe woe
48 Employ
49 Authentic
50 Burst
51 Raw rocks
52 Meadow
54 Away from WSW

Find today's answer and play more games online at metronews.ca

Crossword across

1 Lingerie item
4 Will Ferrell Christmas movie
7 Rate of walking
11 Craving
13 Civil —
14 Old Italian money
15 Hodgepodge
16 Ostrich's cousin
17 Prayer conclusion
18 Confuse
20 Lends a hand
22 St. Bernard's burden
24 Rough struggle
28 Gab
32 Happen
33 "That hurts!"
34 Beer holder
36 14-Across' replacement
37 Bonfire residue
39 Other than
41 Robberies
43 Chatroom chuckling
44 Bobcat
46 Dark hours
50 Horseback pastime
53 Exist
55 Film —
56 Sandwich cookie
57 Author Fleming
58 Mentor
59 Bosc or Bartlett
60 Old soap ingredient
61 Ball prop

previous day's answer



Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
A doubtful contender wins a competition. Express your amusement while you play. You'll make a discovery while searching a closet.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
An outburst will cause distress. An easily offended person is too money conscious. You should comply with all reasonable requests.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
It's okay to admit that you were wrong. Don't expect a reply from a manager. Avoid stimulants because your tolerance level has changed.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
You'll feel affection for somebody in crisis. Offer the gift of your devoted heart. A wonderful stroke of luck solves an ugly problem.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Get out and socialize with those who know your secrets. Freaky laughter will concern you. A bimbo will save the day.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Ask a faker to avoid telling all about an illness. Elation erupts when someone is open to understanding. Issues can be understood with clarity.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
There's socializing in store for a visitor. Partners are unexpectedly nurturing after hearing happy news. It's a peak period for your imagination.

SCORPIO
OCT 24- NOV 22
A disturbance provokes disappointment. Nostalgia develops for the good old days. Make plans to be less disciplined for a while.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23- DEC 21
Being confident will make a difference. A guilty person made a sneaky mistake. Today's gossip frenzy is about a couple.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Everything seems to come with little effort. Grant someone's wish just because you can. A message comes from a puzzling person.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
Someone touches your heart with their devotion. Shocking details are found in ordinary events. Concentrate your efforts on a friendly guy.

PISCES
FEB 19-MAR 20
Your privileges will be acknowledged. Go through the day with your mind focussed on co-operation. Everyone decides to compromise.

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Sudoku

2			5		8			
1	6						2	8
	4			1		5		
	5		6	4				9
		4				3		
9				7	2		5	
		6		2			7	
8	1						9	3
			8		4			2

HOW TO PLAY SUDOKU:
The digits 1 through 9 will appear exactly once in each row, each column, and each zone. (A zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine of these zones in the puzzle.) Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same 3x3 zone, or in the same row across the puzzle, or column down the puzzle.

previous day's answer

5	8	9	3	2	4	6	7	1
2	6	4	7	1	5	3	8	9
1	3	7	6	9	8	5	4	2
8	4	3	5	7	2	9	1	6
6	9	2	8	4	1	7	5	3
7	1	5	9	6	3	4	2	8
3	2	1	4	5	6	8	9	7
9	5	8	1	3	7	2	6	4
4	7	6	2	8	9	1	3	5

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min . . . . . Genius
13-17 min. . . . . Scholar
17-21 min . . . . . Smart
21-25 min . . . . . Not bad
25+ min . . . . Keep practising

Today's answer and play more games at metronews.ca

Vancouver weather

Afternoon	Tonight	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Sunny. 23°	Clear. Low 13°	Sunny. 20°/14°	Partly cloudy. 19°/15°	60% Showers. 20°/12°

The Weather Network theweathernetwork.com

Temperature Normals
High: 18.6°
Low: 10.7°

Records
High: 25.6°/1951
Low: 5.6°/1970

Sunrise: 6:49 a.m.
Sunset: 7:24 p.m.
Moonset: 7:17 a.m.
Moonrise: 7:16 p.m.

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